GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:254
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS CELEBRATIONS
A.C. JOSE;DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;M. JAGANNATH;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of NRI`s and PIO`s were honoured at the recently concluded Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the norms and criteria adopted for the purpose;

(c) whether Indian community from Gulf countries was under represented during this celebration;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of NRI`s and PIO`s who actually attended the convention;

(e) whether a series of issues were discussed on this occasion; and

(f) if so, the details of deliberations held and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) Yes.

(b) The awards were conferred on the following Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who have made outstanding contribution towards fostering better understanding abroad of India and its civilizations and /or have extended their support to India`s causes and concerns and have advanced her interests internationally and/or who have made significant contribution or service to the Indian Diaspora.

1. Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, (Mauritius)

2. Prof. Fatima Meer, (South Africa)

3. Dr. Hari N. Harilela, (Hong Kong-China)

4. Mr. Kanaksi G. Khimji, (Oman)

5. Mr. Manilal Premchand Chandaria, (Kenya)

6. Lord Navnit Dholakia, (UK)

7 Mr. Rajat Gupta, (USA)

8. Sir S. S. Ramphal, (Guyana - currently resident in UK)

9. Mr. Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, (Malaysia)

10.Mr. Ujjal Dosanjh, (Canada)

(c) & (d) As per the registration details, the Indian community from Gulf countries had significant presence at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas with 209 having come from the Gulf countries out of a total of 1904 NRIs and PIOs who took part in the event.

(e) Yes

(f) Special interactive session with Deputy Prime Minister of India and Plenary sessions with Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Human Resource Development and Finance Minister were held. Parallel sessions were held on Entertainment, Ethnic Media and the Diasporic Identity; Culture, Language, Literature and The Diasporic Identity; Healthcare & Pharma; Voluntary Sector and Development; Science & Technology; Knowledge-Based Industries; Hospitality and Tourism; Education; Financial Services; Opportunities in Defense and Internal Security Research & Development.The deliberations resulted in a number of positive suggestions in respective areas for enhanced interaction between India and its diaspora.